

18-10-1939

The Canadian Handicrafts Guild

586 St. Catherine St. W.
Montreal

Under the distinguished Patronage of their Excellencies
the Governor-General and Countess Grey



DOXHOBOR WORKING FOR OUR
HANDICRAFTS SHOPS

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AIM OF THE GUILD

To encourage, revive and develop handicrafts
and home art industries throughout
the Dominion

CANADIAN HANDICRAFTS GUILD

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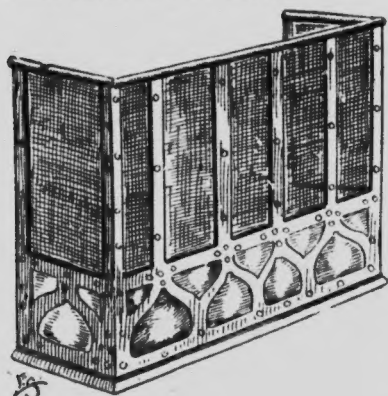
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OUR HANDICRAFTS SHOP

586 St. Catherine St. West

MANAGER - - - - - Miss C. A. STEEN

Basketry	Linens
Bead Work	Table Covers
Leather Work	Blankets
Embroideries	Tweeds
Catalogues	Ceintures Fléchées
Homespuns	Laces
Portières	Pottery
Couvrepieds	Metal Work
Motor Rugs	Furniture, etc.



THE HANDICRAFTS OF

INDIAN	FRENCH
ENGLISH	SCOTCH
IRISH	ITALIAN
DOUKHOBOR	SCANDINAVIAN
AND SYRIAN CANADIANS	

OBJECTS



THE Canadian Handicrafts Guild was organized to encourage, retain, revive and develop handicrafts and home art industries throughout the Dominion.

To prevent the loss and deterioration of these crafts.

To preserve knowledge and skill possessed by new settlers; to aid new-comers during the trying early days of their settlement in a new country, by providing them with a market for good hand-work.

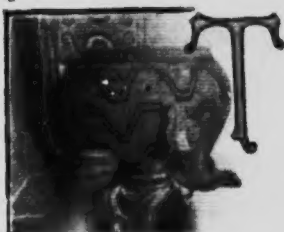
To encourage industry and thrift in the homes of the people, making their work profitable and honourable by means of exhibitions of the products of their skill, thereby increasing contentment in their homes, and augmenting the assets of the Dominion.

To educate the public to the value of good hand-work by holding and taking part in exhibitions at home and abroad, and by other means thought desirable.

To send out among the workers teachers and supervisors to keep up the standard of excellence.

To keep records in order to prevent the extinction of any arts or crafts.

Work and its Management



THE Canadian Handicrafts Guild is an association of ladies and gentlemen throughout Canada who become members upon the payment of an annual

subscription of one dollar. It is under the control of a General Committee elected at the Annual Meeting; this Committee meets quarterly to determine all matters relating to general policy; it elects the Executive Committee, the Life Members, Hon. Council and Council Members.

The Executive Committee meets at least monthly to receive reports of Standing Committees, and acts as may be necessary to carry on the work of the Guild.

The Standing Committees are Our Handicrafts Shop, Extension, Press and Literature, Lecture.

Our Handicrafts Shop is the depot for the receipt, sale and distribution of the crafts encouraged by the Guild. Branches are opened as opportunity offers. The first of these has been opened at Little Metis.

In these shops the object is not to make money, but to put money in the hands of the workers, while the work must be made to pay for its own costs and give the worker a fair return for labour and skill, but without personal profit for the members of the Guild.

The Shop Committee meets once a week to receive the manager's report and discuss affairs in connection with the work.

The work of the Extension Committee is carried on largely by correspondence; its members are scattered over the Dominion and thus enable the Guild to carry out its aim of helping all in the development of characteristic skill and raising the standard of excellence.

The work of the Lecture, and Press and Literature Committees requires no explanation, but it may be said that several courses of Lectures have been given on simple artistic and inexpensive house decoration and furnishing, with gratifying results.

In consequence of the rapid growth of the work, it was found necessary to retain the services of a paid Secretary-Treasurer, the demands upon the time and energy of the officers being already sufficiently great without the additional burden of a vast amount of mere routine work. Apart from this all work is entirely voluntary, except in Our Handicrafts Shop, where the staff consists of two persons.

The Lady Strathcona Capital Fund for Our Handicrafts Shop, Montreal, is for the purchase of stock and promotion of the work, and upon reaching the sum of \$4,500, Lord Strathcona has generously signified his intention of adding another \$500. As this is the only fund the Guild has to carry on this work, the need of speedy completion is urgently felt.

Not completed

**Amount Paid to Workers,
: : and Area Reached : :**

See 1903
AS a result of the Guild's efforts some \$15,000 have been paid to workers from Prince Edward Island to northern British Columbia.

Those who are familiar with the conditions of life in the farming districts will realize the importance of ready cash coming into the home life, even in comparatively small amounts. Any work which tends to keep intelligent young men and women contented on the farms by supplying them with an interesting means of earning extra money, through the exercise and development of their own individual taste and skill in spare hours, is beyond question not only a benefit to the individual workers but also to the country at large.

The Guild has lately arranged to aid Dr. Grenfell in his practical mission work, by becoming a distributing centre for the industrial work in his Labrador school, and otherwise encouraging the workers. To do this it is proposed to pay a small sum for work, so that those anxious to learn weaving, pottery and other suitable industries, may be able to lodge near the school where instruction is given free, and also to supply them with wool for weaving until such time as they are able to raise their own sheep. The Guild will be glad to receive any sums sent for this purpose.



LABRADOR COAT

. . EXHIBITIONS . .

During three years 52 Exhibitions have been sent out from Our Handicrafts Shop. By means of these, Canadian Handicrafts have been made known in the Dominion, the Motherland, the United States and abroad, together with the beauty and use of many things hitherto neglected.

Through the Summer Exhibitions at fashionable resorts, the same end has been attained. Sales have been increased to the benefit of the craftsmen and women, but also to the increased expense of the Guild, which bears the additional charges of freight and travelling expenses without being able to raise prices in proportion. Educational Exhibits are sent to County Fairs to arouse the ambition and cultivate the taste of other workers, who in many instances communicate with the Guild and are thus encouraged to produce better work.

A room was assigned to the Guild in the Canadian Building at the Dublin Exhibition of 1907 to display the many interesting crafts to be found in Canada. Their Majesties the King and Queen both visited this room, and evinced the greatest pleasure in the many beautiful things shown, Her Majesty making several purchases. So successful was the display made, that when it was decided to erect a Canadian Pavilion at the Franco-British Exhibition, the Canadian Government again reserved space for the Guild.

At the request of Her Excellency Lady Grey, a collection representing work of the women of Canada, was also sent to the Australian Exhibition of Women's Work, held in the autumn of 1907, where it elicited most favorable comment from the Australian press.



CORNER IN AN EXHIBITION

Kind of Work Encouraged

:: :: by the Guild :: ::

As the Dominion is the home of settlers from many nations, the work carried on by the Canadian Handicrafts Guild is of a varied kind. Historical and racial, as well as the individual characteristics of the craftsman are wrought into every article, therefore duplicates are rare and, moreover, from an artistic standpoint they are undesirable.



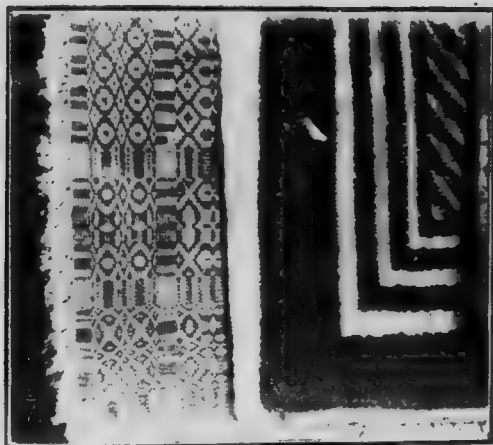
INDIAN BASKETS

The Indian and Eskimo work is difficult to promote owing, among many other conditions, to the fact that the best workers are the most inaccessible, the influence of civilization unfortunately tending rather to deteriorate than to elevate their native taste and skill.

The baskets made by the Indians of the Pacific Coast are extremely fine in form, colour and workmanship, many of the finer baskets taking months to make. The designs are symbolic and the work is a labour of love.

Indian bead and porcupine quill embroideries also show great skill and patience; good specimens are therefore costly.

The Guild endeavours to adapt this skill to articles of present day use, such as electric light shades in transparent bead work, and at the same time to preserve the characteristics of racial and tribal design, colour and workmanship.



SPECIMENS OF WEAVING

In the characteristic "tufted" weaves of the French Canadian may be found quaint designs decorating portières and couvre-pieds, showing the influence of l'Ancien Régime in the fleur de lys; of the Church in the conventional figure of the Blessed Virgin Mary; of Nature in the fir-tree and snow-crystals.

These things come in artistic shades of blues, greens, browns, etc., dyed with vegetable dyes, though the women were fast forgetting how to extract the lovely permanent colours from the plants surrounding them, a work so well known to their grandmothers.

The catalognes or rag carpets in their variety illustrate the growth of the handicrafts revival.

The ceinture fléchée, the long sash of many colours that every voyageur bound around him, is still being made by an old weaver.

Any one who has fingered the hard close texture will understand that so fine is the work that a weaver can rarely do more than four inches a day.





Michel Massie, a cripple boy of Little Metis, is a special protégé of the Handicrafts Guild. He was the victim of a railway accident, which left him almost helpless, but was taught basket-making by a member of the Guild; now he is a skilful and intelligent worker, happy and practically self-supporting.

English, Scotch, Irish and French Canadian tweeds and homespuns are becoming well known for durability and beauty of texture.

Then, there are chairs and stools with rush seats, and simple furniture for country homes, durable and artistic. Pottery, Metal Work, Wood-carving, Leather repoussé, with kindred arts; and lastly that most seductive of personal adornments.

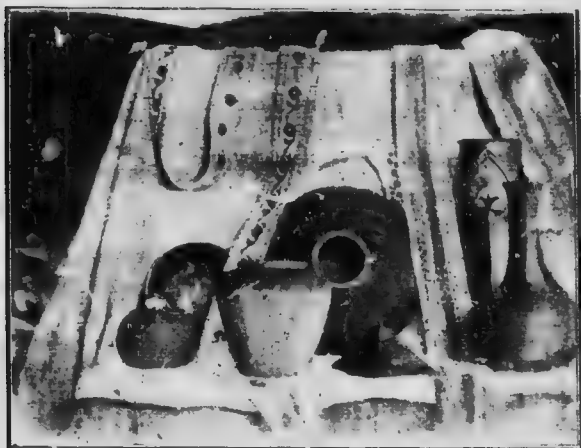
Lace — English Thread and Honitons, Irish Crochet, Carrickmacross, Limerick and Rose point; Italian point, appealing to all, but only within the reach of the wealthy, a class so rapidly increasing in the country that the lace worker now finds a market in the



new land for the exquisite art she brought from the old.

The beautiful embroideries and linens of the European peasantry are also becoming well known, as the Guild has helped them to adapt their work and skill to the needs of the public.

But in all this work it must be remembered, the Guild is encouraging not factory products, but home industries, limited by the conditions of home life with its artistic advantages and commercial disadvantages.

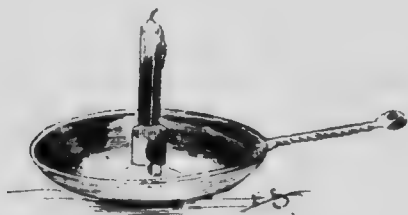


POTTERY AND EMBROIDERIES

EDUCATIONAL WORK



WHILE the Canadian Handicrafts Guild has reason to be pleased at the results of the work it has already accomplished in enlarging the market for artistic hand-made articles, for the encouragement thus given to the craftsmen and women, the artistic result obtained, the pride of craft aroused, the improvement in dyeing and weaving, and the revival of almost forgotten skill, yet the Guild regrets that educational work is retarded by limited means. Many plans and opportunities for establishing artistic industries must be left in abeyance, and applications for help from new districts refused, where the standard of work could be raised by personal supervision. But even for voluntary teachers, travelling expenses are beyond the present means, derived solely from members' subscriptions which range from the necessary \$1.00 upwards, according to the means and inclination of the donor. Those who are in sympathy with this work can thus aid it by becoming members, no matter where they live, for the Guild is a national organization—of no party, no creed and no caste—its policy is one of development, its hope to see the fame of Canadian Craftsmen spread abroad.



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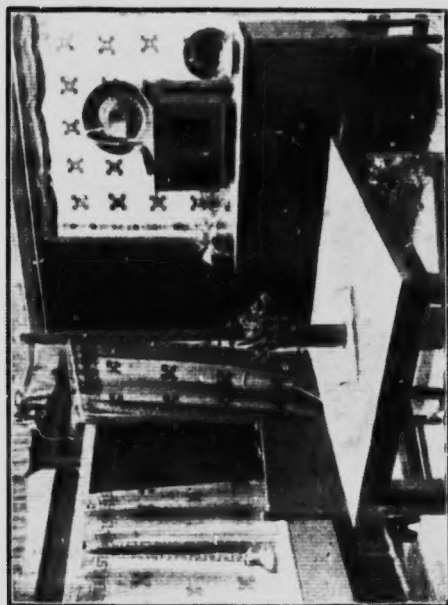
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